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THE DYGHTONS OF THE WEST RIDING

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

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DIGHTON FAMILY — H. DEIGHTON

DIGHTON FAMILY - H. DEIGHTON - 1938

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THE DYGHTONS OF THE WEST RIDING

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

The family of Dyghton took its name from the village of Dyghton - now Deighton - near Huddersfield in the West Riding of the County of York, which name in old English signified a town or farm surrounded by a ditch or moat. During the fifteenth century the spelling of the place and family name changed gradually from Dyghton to Dighton, and in the seventeenth century from Dighton to Deighton, which is now the generally accepted mode of spelling.

SIR WALTER DE DYGHTON of Dyghton was one of the early crusaders. The date of his birth has been estimated as circa 1130 A.D. He bore arms - "Argent a lion passant between three crosses pattee fitchee gules". When the Knights Templar Protectory was founded at Temple Newsham, Yorkshire, in 1181 A.D., Sir Walter took charge of it as Knight Preceptor. He is mentioned in Yorkshire Archaeological Journal Vol. 7 as witness to an undated deed, apparently circa 1185 A.D. He married and left issue -

1. Henry de Dyghton of Dyghton, living in 1246 according to Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series Vo. 12, was the father of John de Dyghton, who witnessed a deed at Huddersfield in 1297 A.D. Yorks. Arch. Journal Vol. 7.

2. William de Dyghton of Dyghton, of whom hereafter.

3. Geoffrey de Dyghton, Pincerna, of Dyghton, also known as Geoffrey le Boteler. His two sons, Henry de Dyghton and Thomas de Dyghton located at Woolley in the latter part of the 12th century, and acquired considerable land there from the Woolleys and Tirels, the original deeds to which are still in existence. Henry de Dyghton married Eva de Woolley, and was Lord of the Manor of Woolley. He died in the reign of Henry III without issue, and granted the whole of his estate to his brother Thomas de Dyghton. The latter died circa 1280 A.D. without male issue leaving as his heiress a daughter Margaret de Dyghton. She married John de Stainton, through which marriage the estate passed from the Dyghton family to the Stainton family. John de Stainton adopted a coat of arms - "Argent a fess, between three crosses pattee gules, a lion passant or", which differs but slightly from the Dyghton Coat of Arms described above. Sir Robert Stainton of Woolley was their grandson. Yorkshire Archaeological Journal Vol. 27 mentions these early Dyghtons, and gives a pedigree of the Stainton family.

WILLIAM DE DYGHTON, of Dyghton, mentioned above, was born circa 1160 A.D.. A record of him appears in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 92. He had issue -

THOMAS DE DYGHTON, of Dyghton, living in 1259 A.D. mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 12 & 92, was the father of -

1. Sir Nigel Dyghton, of whom hereafter.

2. Robert de Dyghton, Pincerna, of Northdyghton, living 1246-7 A.D. He owned land at Harewood in 1280 A.D. Mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc, R. S. Vol. 12, 39, 76 & 92

3. William de Dyghton, born circa 1225 A.D. Witnessed a deed in 1245 A.D. See Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 92.

SIR NIGEL DE DYGHTON, mentioned above, pincerna, of Dyghton. Born circa 1220 A.D. Also known as Nigel le Boteler. Was a wealthy landowner. Mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 12, 69, 76 & 92. He had issue -

1. Nigel de Dyghton, of Northdyghton, living in 1292 A.D.

2. Richard de Dyghton, Rector of Garforth in 1340 A.D.

3. Robert de Dyghton of Harewood, Owned land there in 1331 A.D.

4. William de Dyghton, of whom hereafter.

5. Agnes de Dyghton, married William de Midleton of Stockeld in the West Riding. Their son, Sir Peter de Midleton became High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1334 A.D.

WILLIAM DE DYGHTON (son of Sir Nigel) was born circa 1250 A.D. He and his son John are mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 39 & 57. He had issue -

JOHN DE DYGHTON of Dyghton, living in 1362 A.D., mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 39 & 57. He left issue -

1. Thomas de Dyghton, m. Sara Metham, of whom hereafter.

2. Richard de Dyghton, m. Margaret - - - - - - - In 1343 Thomas, son of Peter de Midleton made a grant of some property to Richard de Dyghton and Margaret his wife. Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 72.

3. Sir William de Dyghton, received a grant of considerable property at Stockeld in 1349. According to calendar of Patent Rolls, he and Robert de Dyghton acquired joint ownership to some property in Harewood in 1358. Sir William was one of the original Charterhouse Monks, Canon of St. Pauls, London, Vicar of Staindrop, Co. Durham, Chaplain to King Richard II, and a member of his cabinet, also keeper of the great seal of England. In 1378 Sir William de Dyghton, Sir William le Scrope and Simon de Burg, the King's esquire, were directed to treat with the King of Navarre. He died in 1381 A.D., in which year his will was probated at Somerset House, London. An abstract of it appears in North Country wills at Somerset House - Surtees Society, Vol. 116.

THOMAS DE DYGHTON mentioned above, M. Sara daughter of - - - - - - Metham. He and his father, John de Dyghton witnessed a deed at Huddersfield in 1362 A.D. Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 39. His name is the first one in the Dyghton pedigree published in the visitation of the County of Worcester. He was the father of -

SIR HENRY DE DYGHTON, born circa 1350, of Dalton, near Huddersfield, married Eva, sister of Sir William le Scrope, Earl of Wiltshire. He bore the same arms as Sir Walter de Dyghton, namely - "Argent a lion passant between three crosses pattee fitchee gules". See Harleian M.S.S. 1097. He left issue -

1. William de Dyghton of Dalton, of whom hereafter.

2. John de Dyghton, who founded the family of Dyghton of Woodosome (Staincliffe Hall), in Batley, owners of an estate there for three and a half centuries. From them were descended the Dightons of Horkstow Co. Lincoln, and London. (See Harleian M.S.S. 1097, Records of Batley, & Visitation of the County of Lincoln).

WILLIAM DE DYGHTON, of Dalton, mentioned above, born circa 1380, married Magdalena, Sister of Sir William Mirfield. According to Great Britain State Papers, Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, considerable land at Woolley was transferred to him by the Staintons in 1415. In 1446-7 he witnessed a deed at Dalton, and is described therein as of Ravensknowle, which is in Dalton. (See Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, Vol. 39). He left issue -

1. Christopher Dighton, M. A. of Woolley, of whom hereafter.

2. Richard Dighton, who married Mary Fleming, and was ancestor of the Dightons of Ingham and Nanton. (See Harleian M.S. 1097).

3. Robert Dighton, who married a sister of Sir John Waterton, of whom hereafter.

CHRISTOPHER DIGHTON, M.A. of Woolley, mentioned above married Mary Conyers and died in 1466. His will dated, Feb. 22, 1461, was probated at York, Oct. 5, 1466. He expressed a wish therein to be buried in the Churchyard of Woolley, to the high altar of which and other local churches he made bequests. The residue of his estate was left to his wife and his son William, whom he made executors. His younger son Robert who later became Mayor of Lincoln is not mentioned in his will. His eldest son -

WILLIAM DIGHTON of Woolley, married Elizabeth Garthorpe, He owned the Ravensknowle property which he sold in 1482. In the same year he is mentioned in Yorks. Arch. Soc. R. S. Vol. 69. He had issue -

1. William Dighton of Lincoln, who married Anne Malyn. His eldest son Christopher Dighton married Anne, daughter of Hugh Lacey of Brearley, and founded the family of Dighton of Winceby Co. Lincoln. He used as his Arms - "Ermine a lion passant between three crosses pattee fitchee gules". (See Visitation of the County of Lincoln, and Lincolnshire Pedigrees).

2. Henry Dighton of Lincoln, who married Joyce North and left issue. (See Lincolnshire Pedigrees).

3. Thomas Dighton of Normanby-by-Spital Co. Lincoln, who married Joane Eland. Will dated, 1548. From him were descended the Dightons of Worcester and Clifford Chambers. (See the Dightons of Clifford Chambers, by Conway Dighton).

4. Robert Dighton of Woolley, of whom hereafter.

5. Margaret Dighton, who married William Rathbye.

ROBERT DIGHTON, of Woolley, mentioned above, married Margaret Tothby. His will dated, July 15, 1541 was probated at York, Nov. 15, 1541. He left issue -

1. John Dighton of Minting, Co. Lincoln Died 1606. See Lincolnshire Wills.

2. Gilbert Dighton of Woolley, inherited land in Woolley.

3. Christopher Dighton - See Lincolnshire Pedigrees.
William, Thomas, Francis, Elizabeth Margaret, and Meriall.

ROBERT DIGHTON who married a sister of Sir John Waterton, as mentioned above, left with other issue a second son -

WILLIAM DIGHTON who married Sarah Matham, and left issue -

THOMAS DIGHTON of Wath near Ripon N.R. Yorks. He married Susanna Pudsey of Barford, N.R. Yorks. See Harleian M.S.S. 1097. He left issue -

1. Robert Dighton, eldest son, of Wath, M. Anna, daughter of Thomas Beckwith of Clints, Lord of the Manor of Hawnby. He died in 1556 leaving issue - three daughters, Maria Margaret & Bridget.

2. Richard Dighton of Wath, of whom hereafter.

3. John Dighton of Wath m. Elizabeth. His will dated, 1580 was probated at Richmond in 1582. He left issue - three daughters, Anne, Isabel & Elizabeth.

RICHARD DIGHTON of Wath mentioned above, was married, and died in 1612, leaving issue -

1. Richard Dighton of Wath.Bap. at Wath 1577, m. Ann Wriglimint in 1611. He left issue four daughters - Maria, Ann, Jane & Barbara.

2. Robert Dighton of Hawnby, of whom hereafter.

3. John Dighton
4. Ann Dighton
5. Maria Dighton m. Richard Barnes

ROBERT DIGHTON of Hawnby N. R. Yorks, mentioned above. Bap. at Wdth, 1588, m. Barbara - - - - - - , who died 1678. He died in 1680, leaving issue -

1. Thomas Dighton of Great Smeaton, of whom hereafter.
2. Christopher Dighton of Coom House, Hawnby, living 1685.
3. Anne Dighton.

THOMAS DIGHTON of Great Smeaton, mentioned above, m. Elizabeth Eddye at Hawnby, April 16, 1657. He died in 1685 and letters testamentary were granted in that year to his brother Christopher and to his son Thomas. His son -

THOMAS DEIGHTON of Manfield N. R. Yorks. Born 1664 m. Elizabeth - - - - - -. He died in 1738, and his will was probated at Richmond. He left issue -

1. Thomas Deighton of Manfield, born 1680, died 1741. Buried at Manfield.
2 Joseph Deighton, of whom hereafter.
3. John Deighton of Manfield. Buried at Winston.
Anne, Elizabeth, Deborah, and Ellen.

JOSEPH DEIGHTON of Staindrop. Bap. at Great Smeaton, Oct. 4, 1691 m. Elizabeth - - - - - -. He died in 1731, leaving issue -

1. Joseph Deighton living 1738.

2. Matthias Deighton of Winston. Bap. at Staindrop, Oct. 26, 1723. He married Mary Darnton at Winston, and left issue .

The Deighton family crest which originated in the 14th century, is described - "On a ducal coronet or a hawk close argent, beaked and legged gules, belled of the first".

The Ravensknowle property in Dalton passed out of the Dighton family in 1482 when it was sold by William Dighton of Woolley to Thomas Saville of Hulinedge, the transfer being recorded in the library of the Dean and Chapter of York. The old mansion-rebuilt in 1860 - and its grounds now serve as a museum and park for the residents of Huddersfield and vicinity. See the History of Ravensknowle by Leigh Tolson.

Several Dyghtons mentioned above were Pincernas. In this early period of history a Pincerna or Boteler was the holder of a high office. As an illustration, in the latter part of the 12th century King John gave to Theobald Walter, as a reward for brilliant military services, the hereditary office of Pincerna Hiberniensis. The appointment was virtually a sinecure and very lucrative, the emoluments being a prisage on all wines imported into Ireland. The King's privilege of making such grants was rescinded by the British Pariliament in the 18th century when all such offices were abolished, and any duties incidental thereto merged into the Customs Service.

ROBERT DIGHTON of Lincoln, a younger son of Christopher Dighton, M.A. of Woolley, mentioned above, married Anne Dorrington. He was Mayor of Lincoln in 1506 and 1510 and used as his arms - "Argent a lion passant between three crosses, crosslet fitchee gules". His son -

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ROBERT DIGHTON of Lincoln and Sturton, married Joyce, daughter of William St. Paul. After the dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII, he acquired Sturton Priory and extensive tracts of monastic land in the County of Lincoln. He died May 18, 1546, and was succeeded by his eldest son -

EDMUND DIGHTON of Sturton, who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Hall. His will was probated in 1586. His eldest son -

THOMAS DIGHTON of Sturton, married a daughter of Sir Ambrose Jermyn of Torksey. He died without male issue, leaving a daughter and heiress -

MARY DIGHTON who married Sir Edward Clinton, second son of the Earl of Lincoln. Their grandson, Sir Francis Fiennes-Clinton became the sixth Earl of Lincoln. (See Visitation of the County of Lincoln, Lincolnshire Pedigrees, Lincolnshire Wills, and Burke's Peerage and Baronetage).

It has just been stated that Robert Dighton, Mayor of Lincoln used a Coat of Arms slightly different from the original Dyghton grant namely - "Argent a lion passant between three crosses crosslet fitchee gules". Curiously enough these same arms appear inscribed on a monument in Gloucester Church to the memory of John Dighton, a surgeon of that city who died in 1640. An old 16th century pedigree recently discovered in the British Museum in London shows that he was a grandson of Henry Dighton of Leigh Wiltshire. The latter's connection with the main Dighton line has apparently not yet been definitely established. However the resemblance of his arms to those of Robert Dighton of Lincoln is a clue which might be followed up to advantage by anyone sufficiently interested.

N. Dighton

June 1st, 1938